

STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Consideration

TOPIC: High School
Block Scheduling

ITEM NO: 4C

PREPARED BY: Jean S. Murray
Superintendent
Andrea L. Bengier
Assistant Superintendent
for Instruction and Technology
Cindy Holder
Principal, BPHS

MEETING: December 14, 2004

ACTION DATE: January 11, 2005

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT: That the Stafford County School Board receive for information Brooke Point High School's consideration of Block Scheduling with approval for continued investigation of Block Scheduling requested at the January 11, 2005 meeting. The School Board is also requested to authorize the Superintendent to expand consideration of Block Scheduling to additional high schools provided each school's faculty demonstrates its willingness to meet identified criteria as noted in (B) below.

KEY POINTS:

- A. Brooke Point High School proposes to adopt a block schedule as its organizational model for daily instruction beginning in the 2005-2006 school year.
1. A committee was established to consider block scheduling as an organizational model and make recommendations to the faculty. Questions and concerns were received by the principal and the committee. Every effort was made to respond to each question raised with accurate information.
 2. On December 3, 2004, 142 ballots were distributed to the faculty to consider moving to some form of block schedule for the 2005-2006 school year. Administrative staff did not vote, with the exception of the administrative assistant, who is also a teacher.
 - a. 122 votes were cast, 20 votes were not cast.
 - b. 73 "Yes" votes to adopt some form of block scheduling for 2005-2006 school year.
 - c. 49 "No" votes were cast against the measure.
 - d. 60% of the faculty were in favor.
 3. Brooke Point High School requests permission to continue work toward the implementation of Block Scheduling for the 2005-2006 school year. Such work may include cooperative arrangements with other high schools considering block scheduling.

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- B. Should additional high schools be interested in considering block scheduling alternatives, the Board is requested to authorize the superintendent to allow such efforts, provided the school demonstrates the following:
1. A faculty committee is established to consider block scheduling alternatives and to provide leadership to the study.
 2. The faculty is engaged in the study of block scheduling alternatives through participation in department meetings, general information meetings, question and answer forums, and tours of schools employing block scheduling.
 3. Upon initial study of scheduling alternatives, a presentation is made to the faculty to vote either “yea” or “nay” to continue researching block scheduling for implementation.
 4. Continued research of block scheduling will incorporate identification of staff training requirements, implementation timelines, accommodation of elective programs, and selection of a block scheduling model.
 5. Existing and future shared programs (e.g., CTE courses or Governor’s School) or complementary programs must be accommodated within the block schedule.
 6. Final recommendations for block scheduling shall be presented to the faculty for its approval and to staff of the Department of Instruction for review. Final approval for implementation will be made by the division superintendent upon recommendations by the principal and the assistant superintendent for instruction and technology.

SCHOOL BOARD GOALS: #1 - Provide educational excellence through instruction that establishes high expectations for *all* students yet recognizes the unique needs of each learner.

FUNDING SOURCE: n/a

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: local